

County. She does this without expecting recognition or reward for her efforts.

For these reasons, when I was asked to nominate a candidate for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Ageless Heroes Award, Selma's name was the first to come to mind. I know her colleagues and her friends in Lenawee County would agree that she is worthy of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, Selma Larson, through her vigor, hard work, and dedication, serves as a role model to us all. She proves every day that in America a person with commitment and drive can have a lasting impact on issues affecting all of us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION OF CONGRESSMAN TOM A. COBURN, M.D.
ON ROLL CALL VOTE NUMBER 557

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, In conducting my end of the year of review this past month I discovered that without explanation, my vote was not recorded on Roll Call vote number 557, passage of H.R. 1270, Amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. I was in fact present for this vote and did in fact vote Yea.

EQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION
FUNDING

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, as a "donor state," Californians pay more in federal taxes at the gas pump than they receive back in federal funds for highway construction, bridge, and road maintenance. When Congress re-authorizes transportation funding legislation this year, I will support equity in transportation funding for California.

Taxpayers in my state expect their hard-earned tax dollars to be used for improvements in their communities and across California. Unfortunately, that is rarely the case. The truth is, some of the money is always used in some other town, in some other state. Mr. Speaker, we should stop asking California taxpayers to pay for highway and infrastructure improvements they will likely never see.

California communities are struggling to maintain their infrastructure. Many communities, including those I represent, are finding it virtually impossible to keep up with growing populations and business development. This is not only unfair, it is becoming unsafe.

Congress must support more equitable funding formulas for states that traditionally pay much more than they receive for their tax dollars, especially California. Mr. Speaker, we must enact a fairer transportation funding formula this year. I urge my California colleagues to unanimously support a funding formula that is fair for California taxpayers.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH RECEIVING THE 1998 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AWARD FOR THE NATION'S TOP URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the city of Elizabeth, New Jersey for receiving the 1998 Community Empowerment Award from the National Association of State Development Agencies (NASDA) for developing the nation's most successful Urban Enterprise Zone.

The city's UEZ program, which is administered by the Elizabeth Development Company, beat out more than 3,000 eligible zone program participants from 40 states for the honor. The award will be presented February 26th at the annual NASDA Awards Luncheon in Washington, D.C.

In five years Elizabeth's UEZ program has generated over \$30 million in revenue. In addition, the program has helped jump start over \$500 million in economic development and provide more than 6,000 jobs for the region. In the future, the program expects to add 5,000 more jobs with the development of the New Jersey Gardens MetroMall.

Elizabeth's UEZ program is a model for how targeted sales and business tax cuts coupled with effective community programs can serve to spur growth in our urban areas. This nationally renowned program has attracted such visitors as Boston Mayor Tom Menino and has brought innovative approaches to nurturing relationships between private and public sector agencies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make this program so successful. I would especially like to congratulate Elizabeth Mayor Christopher Bollwage; Executive Director of the Elizabeth Development Company, Ed Kolling; Deputy Executive Director of the EDC, Bill O'Dea; Planning Director, George Devanney; UEZ Coordinator, Don Devanney; Senior Project Coordinator, Don Goncalves and Community Relations Coordinator, Dave Strochak.

TRIBUTE TO FAMILY
CONNECTIONS ADOPTIONS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Family Connections Adoptions for over 15 years of devoted service to the community. Family Connections Adoptions helps families adopt children with special needs from all over the globe.

Family Connections Adoptions began in February, 1983. In 15 years the agency has placed over 1400 children, about half of which have been from California. The rest have been from developing countries—India, Korea, Thailand, South America, Vietnam, Romania, Ethiopia, China, Russia and others. The agency began by serving families in three countries with an office in Modesto, California. The serv-

ice area has expanded gradually and now covers the whole state of California. There are branch offices in Sacramento, Fresno, and Oceanside.

The children range in age from infancy to fifteen years. The children are of every race and ethnic background. All of the children have been "waiting children," which means that they have some special needs. These special needs can consist of medical challenges which include blindness, deafness, missing limbs, cerebral palsy, heart problems, cleft lip and palate, hydrocephalus, failure to thrive, severe asthma, fetal alcohol syndrome, and drug addiction. Some of the children at Family Connections have been free of medical challenges but their age, large sibling group, or minority race kept them waiting for an adoptive family.

The family who adopt through Family Connections vary in age, income, education, race, and family size. Couples who have been married two years and singles are welcome to apply. For some, the adoption is a first child for the family. For others, the new addition joins a family with other children. The common factor all families share is their desire to nurture a child.

Many of the agency staff are adoptive parents themselves and they relate to adopting families with warmth and understanding. Family Connections has a commitment to children who wait for permanent, loving homes and to the families who long to open their hearts and homes to the waiting children.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Family Connections for their contribution to child adoption. It is the care and devotion displayed by Family Connections that warrant this recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Family Connections many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CABLE
CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF
1998

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Cable Consumer Protection Act of 1998.

I am pleased to be offering this legislation today with my good friend, the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. SHAYS. The purpose of our legislative proposal is quite straightforward. We believe that Congress must act to continue consumer price controls past March 31, 1999, when they are scheduled to end pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Telecommunications Act mandates that after March 31, 1999, consumer price controls for cable programming services end, a policy premised on the assumption that subsequent to enactment of the Act the telephone industry would mount a large scale assault of cable markets across the country. It is clear that competition to the cable industry has not materialized in any significant way after passage of the Telecommunications Act and that except for a few exceptions in limited areas of the country, the phone industry has largely pulled back from entering the cable business. Moreover, the cold reality is that for the overwhelming majority of consumers, an alternative wireline competitor is not going to show